

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Yugoslav Political and Economic Information

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

25X1X The Moscow-Belgrade Feud.

1. Cominform underground propaganda in Yugoslavia has concentrated on the following objectives:
 - a. Acquiring the sympathy of nationalist elements by ridiculing Tito, emphasizing his murder of Mihailovich, inciting to inter-ethnic conflict, etc. The following slogans, for example, are heard in Slovenia: "Slovenia for the Slovenes!", and "Down with the traitors of Serb Rankovic's Militia and Croat Tito's UDB!"
 - b. Eliminating sympathy for the West, stressing that the Anglo-Americans are supporting Tito's dictatorship against the will of the Yugoslav People. Leaflets propagating this theme were clandestinely distributed in Zagreb in September.
2. In Slovenia photographs of Stalin and satellite leaders have been burned and Soviet books and newspapers have disappeared. It is rumored that all the works of Russian writers will be eliminated from school texts and that the Russian language will no longer be a required subject in the middle schools.

Sabotage and Counter-Sabotage Measures.

1. After the Romsa fire, reports of numerous other fires and accidents attributed to Cominform sabotage circulated throughout Yugoslavia. Most persistent of these were reports of a fire in the textile factory at Duga Resa near Karlovac, Croatia, and of incendiary sabotage at the cement factory in Klis near Split. There have been many reports of sabotage on Yugoslav lines of communication, but few of these have been specific, often lacking in detail and confirmation. A train accident caused by an incorrectly placed switch allegedly occurred at the Slovenski-Javornik railroad station on 15 September 1949.
2. The physical security of all government offices, industries and communications has been strengthened. All important military, political and industrial installations are guarded day and night. The buildings of the Ministries and offices of high Party officials are guarded by

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KNOJ sentries, other offices and buildings by Militia, and factories by trusted UDB, Industrial Militia and work inspectors.

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3. More frequent and detailed inspection of identity cards has been noted on Yugoslav trains recently. All persons and baggage entering Yugoslavia now must undergo a thorough search. Similarly, in the railroad stations near the Eastern border, all persons and their belongings are searched prior to leaving these stations, regardless of the direction in which they travel.

American Assistance to Yugoslavia.

1. American assistance to Yugoslavia was received with mixed feelings in Ljubljana. Many are certain that the average person will not benefit until the United States actually steps into Yugoslav affairs. The regime regards national work projects as necessary, in order to influence favorably American opinion.
2. It is rumored that America will soon permit the mailing of relief packages. Unless the consumer receives the packages directly, however, it is believed they will disappear into officers' and commissars' messes. Not long ago the Government contemplated cutting off all package mail from Trieste but in order to avoid serious public reaction, the procedure was allowed to continue.

Food Situation.

1. The food situation continues to be desperate. Supplies are always one or two months behind schedule. Black marketing has increased despite drastic measures to suppress it. The paucity of food provokes visible resentment among Party as well as non-Party people.
2. In Slovenia, only lettuce, apples and carrots are available in the produce markets. Lettuce is eaten dry since oil is unobtainable. Potatoes are not available because they are exported to other countries. The coming winter will be one of great want.

Labor Problems.

1. Increased pressure is applied to recruit people for voluntary work brigades. Many of those who volunteer for labor do so only because they cannot buy enough to eat by following their normal means of livelihood. Even elementary grade children are being assigned light tasks during their off-school hours.
2. Discontent among the peasants with the Government's forced collectivization of rural areas constitutes a serious hazard to the regime. Farmers are being arrested and many assigned to forced labor details. Continued pressure is being brought to recruit more voluntary workers from all Government levels. A minimum of five persons from each government office or section is required to serve on labor projects. Those office workers who are not with labor brigades are required to work overtime to compensate for the work hours lost by comrades assigned to the brigades. Women in labor brigades are required to do the same tasks as the men, with no effort made to lighten their physical work load.
3. During the month of August, people who had no syndicate books were arrested on the streets of Belgrade, Zagreb and Ljubljana and sent to forced labor camps. These arrests were carried out on the basis of a new law which covers violations of the order and peace of the country.

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4. Also arrested and sent to labor camps were an unspecified number of families of emigres who receive letters from abroad, charged with distributing propaganda against the regime.
5. Previously arrested and convicted persons were sent from jails and prisons to work projects on Lake Skutari, where many contracted malaria.
6. In August there were a number of incidents between government officials and students from the Forestry School of Ljubljana. The latter had been sent as a work brigade to the Pohorje District, to fell trees for export to England. These incidents, brought on by the authorities' demand for greater efficiency, culminated in attacks by the students on their supervisors, including the school director of the brigade and Minister Leskovsek. The students successfully demanded that they be released from further work. Subsequently, the Venezia Giulia Student Brigade revolted against excessive work demands on the Zagreb-Belgrade Highway.

Railroad Anniversary Celebration.

The centennial of the Yugoslav Railroads was celebrated in a parade which featured the development of the Yugoslav Railroads. Pictures of Marshal Tito and the Ministers of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia were displayed. Unlike earlier parades, pictures of Stalin were not exhibited. Nor were there the customary ovations for Stalin and the USSR. Youths in the parade sang a new song entitled: "Tell Comrade Stalin that we are the New Youth of Tito". The relatively few spectators behaved passively.

Arrests and Executions.

1. Ing. Jovan Marijan, Assistant to the Minister of Forestry in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, was arrested in Sarajevo on 31 August on charges of Cominformism.
2. Air Force Captain Gregovic (sic), a member of the Communist Party who had attended a special course in the Soviet Union, was arrested in Fiume as he was attempting to escape to Trieste.
3. By August, all pro-Cominform officers in the IV Army, Ljubljana, were reported to have been arrested.
4. In October a large percentage of the officers in the Ministry of Food in Ljubljana were placed under arrest.
5. During the week of 9-15 October, three Cominformists were executed by a firing squad in one of the public squares of Fiume. Of these two were identified as Surina (sic) and Giuseppe Arrigoni.

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